is the nodal agency for posing these projects to the external donor agencies. DEA views the proposal for its viability and matches the project with donors' spectral preferences, and approaches the appropriate donor for funding the project.

Smuggling of Arecanut

661. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of arecanut through Nepal and also import of arecanut in the name of dry fruits which affect adversely the Indian growers mainly from Kerala, Karnataka and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check smuggling of arecanut and to protect the interest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Available reports indicate some incidence of smuggling of arecanut (Betelnut) from Nepal to India. The details of seizure of arecanut attempted to be smuggled are furnished below:

Year	Value of seizure (Rs. in lac)
1994–95	16.14
1995–96	54.74
1996–97	41.69

There are however no reports to indicate import of arecanut in the guise of dry fruits.

(c) Anti Smuggling agencies are on high alert to prevent and detect any smuggling including smuggling of arecanut. Specific measures taken include greater surveillance & targetting of intelligence on the areas vulnerable to smuggling such as the Indo—Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.

All India Judicial Service

662. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has strongly opposed the proposal of the Union Government for the constitution of an All-India Judicial Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other States so far opposed this move and the States which have approved the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has opposed the creation of All India Judicial Service which may not serve interests of an efficient administration of justice due to regional and language variations in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, J & K, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland have also not favoured the setting up of an All India Judicial Service. The State Governments of Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Kerala, Tripura, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have concurred to the setting up of an AIJS. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Rajasthan have given conditional endorsement to the proposal.

(d) In pursuance of a direction of Supreme Court of India in the All India Judges Association Case (Writ Petition No. 1022/89), the Government is already seized of the matter relating to creation of an All India Judicial Service. Secondly, comments from two States are awaited.

Agricultural Export

663. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed export curbs on groundnut and Seasamum besides realising the export quota of 5000 tonnes for milk powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these two items have been declare freely exportable during 1997–98; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to restrict the misuse of these two items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Vide Policy Circular No. 9/97–98 dated 14th July, 1997 and the Policy Circular No. 14/97-98 dated 30th July, 1997, the Government has permitted free export of HPS groundnut and seasamum (seasame seeds) without any quantitative restrictions during the current licensing year, 1997–98. Similarly vide Policy